

MINUTES
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Monday, February 13, 2017
7:00 pm

Present: Chairman Marty Schwager, Rob Rome, Jim Caldwell and Ken Kuhl. Fran Armentano, Director of Community Development was also in attendance.

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm in the Granby Town Hall Meeting Room.

The members discussed the minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting. On a motion by Ken Kuhl and seconded by Jim Caldwell, the Commission voted to approve the minutes. All approved.

Eric Manardi and Anna Sogliuzzo were in attendance, particularly to discuss item #3 regarding the Development Commission Web Site, "Granby Now".

The members discussed the current economic climate, real estate and various activities. They discussed the most recent public hearing regarding the development proposal by Upstream Properties. They commented on the significant support that the proposal received from the business community, most notably the Chamber of Commerce. The hearing demonstrated that there was community support for the project, while recognizing neighbor's objections. The members further discussed the misinformation that continues in regards to the declining student population. They suggested that people can easily search "Declining Enrollment impact" to get a complete understanding of the situation. They also noted that the Granby Public Schools Declining Enrollment Study of August 26, 2015 has a clear picture of Granby's declining enrollment. Reading it should help clear up any misconceptions.

https://www.granby.k12.ct.us/uploaded/Declining_Enrollment_Study_Report.pdf

The members also found comments regarding the Commission's support for multifamily housing curious. The Development Commission has supported multifamily housing within this area since at least 2012.

Eric Manardi and Anna Sogliuzzo joined the Commission in discussing the Granby Now web site. The Commission sees this site as a way to inform residents about important developments, particularly revenue positive projects and those that can have a significant impact on the business community. Eric Manardi has volunteered to manage the site. However the Commission feels that he should be compensated for the work to maintain it. Eric agreed to prepare a cost estimate for the Commission, which they will review at the next meeting. The Commission spent additional time discussing the use and the style of the website. The members discussed other promotional/informational ideas including articles in the new Granby Living monthly magazine. Ken Kuhl will work on that.

Fran explained that the Town is making application for a 2017 Small Cities Grant seeking \$800,000 for improvements to the Stony Hill Village Elderly apartments. He discussed how a current 2016 grant for \$800,000 is being used at the Salmon Brook Elderly apartments. The Commission had supported the 2016 project and Fran asked if they would support the proposed application.

On a motion by Ken Kuhl, seconded by Rob Rome, the Commission voted to support the 2017 Small Cities grant application. All approved. Chairman Schwager will prepare the letter.

The meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Armentano